

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GUATEM 01585 131846Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00  
ACDA-07 /067 W

-----131851Z 017702/41

O 131812Z ZFF4  
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
TO SECSTATE NIACT IMMEDIATE 5183  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC  
USCINCO  
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
REGUCIGALAPA  
AMCONSUL BELIZE

CONFIDENTIAL GUATEMALA 1585

REF: GUATEMALA 1584

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, GT, US

SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN REACTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

1. WHEN I SAW OFF THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON HIS DEPARTURE  
FOR WASHINGTON SUNDAY MORNING, I TOLD HIM I HAD BEEN  
SORRY TO SEE HIS GOVERNMENT'S REACTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS  
QUESTION IN THEIR NOTE OF FRIDAY, AND ASKED IF THEY  
PLANNED TO PUBLISH THE TEXT. NOTHING THAT HE WOULD BE  
AWAY FOR THE NEXT FIVE WEEKS, HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK  
THEY WOULD RELEASE THE TEXT UNLESS OUR STATEMENT ON  
GUATEMALA WERE PUBLISHED. IF THIS HAPPENED, THEY WOULD BE  
UNDER GREAT PRESSURE FROM THE PRESS AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY  
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RESPOND BY RELEASING THEIR NOTE. I NOTED THAT, AS HE  
KNEW FROM PAST CONVERSTATIONS, THERE WAS A STRONG AND  
INCREASING INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS BOTH IN OUR CONGRESS  
AND IN OUR ADMINISTRATITN. HE SAID HE REALIZED THIS AND  
APPRECIATED THAT OUR MOTIVES IN ALL THIS WERE NOBLE;  
NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID, THEY HAD HAD NO CHOICE EXCEPT TO

RESPOND AS THEY HAD IN THEIR NOTE AND TO STAND BY THE PRINCIPLE THAT IT WAS UNACCEPTABLE FOR ANY GOVERNMENT TO PASS JUDGMENT ON GUATEMALA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE SAID THIS WAS A QUESTION WHICH SHOULD BE PURSUED THROUGH MULTILATERAL AND NOT UNILATERAL CHANNELS.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER WAS CHARACTERISTICALLY WARM AND FRIENDLY THROUGHOUT OUR CONVERSATION, TREATING THE ISSUE ESSENTIALLY AS AN UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN TWO GOOD FRIENDS. HE REPEATED HIS APPRECIATION FOR FACT THAT SECRETARY WAS TAKING TIME SO SOON AFTER TAKING OFFICE TO RECEIVE HIM

3. AS OF SUNDAY, MARCH 13, GOG HAS NOT GIVEN ANY CLEAR INDICATION TO PUBLIC THAT REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUATEMALA EXISTS OR HAS BEEN RECEIVED. HOWEVER, ONE OF SMALLEST PAPERS, LA HORA, AFTERNOON MARCH 12 CARRIED INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA WHICH IS SIMILAR TO BRIEF INTERVIEW SHOWN ON TV NEWS PROGRAM EVENING MARCH 11. MOLINA IS QUOTED AS REFERRING TO UNSPECIFIED STATEMENTS BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE THAT "HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED FOR A LONG TIME" IN GUATEMALA (NOT AN ACCURATE QUOTE FROM DEPARTMENT'S REPORT) AND LABELLING THAT ASSERTION AS "A GRAVE NORTH AMERICAN INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF GUATEMALA." MOLINA IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF GUATEMALA ARE EXCLUSIVE COMPETENCE OF GOG AND "THEREFORE NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO JUDGE US."

4. HOWEVER, LA HORA SAYS FONMIN "ADMITTED THAT IN GUATEMALA

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FOR MANY YEARS A CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE HAS REIGNED WHICH HAS PRODUCED LOSS OF LIFE, THROUGH KIDNAPPINGS AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE; BUT, HE EMPHASIZED, THESE ARE ACTS OUTSIDE THE CONTROL OF AUTHORITIES AND OF GOVERNMENT. ONE MUST BE CLEAR, HE ADDED, THAT THESE ACTS OF VIOLENCE OCCUR NOT ONLY IN OUR COUNTRY BUT ALSO THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.... EVEN IN US, ACTS OF VIOLENCE OCCUR CONTINUALLY; FOR EXAMPLE, WE CAN SEE THE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE THIS MORNING (REFERENCE TO BLACK MUSLIM INCIDENT IN WASHINGTON); THE SAME THING HAPPENS IN EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES."

5. APPARENTLY ASKED LA HORA'S REPORTER WHETHER CHARGES AGAINST GUATEMALA ORIGINATED WITH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, FONMIN IS QUOTED AS SAYING AI "IS AN EXCEEDINGLY SUSPICIOUS ORGANIZATION WHICH FOR SOME TIME HAS UNDEPTAKEN TO MAKE CHARGES AT RANDOM AGAINST ANY COUNTRY. PARADOXICALLY....THIS ORGANIZATION....

HAS NEVER GIVEN ITSELF TO THE TAKS OF DENOUCING VILATIONS  
WHICH EXIST IN ENGLAND, ESPECIALLY IN IRELAND, IN SPITE OF  
THE ACCUSTATIONS AGAINST THE BRITISH....AI IS A FRONT  
ORGANIZATION WITH SELECTIVE CRITERIA FOR ITS ATTACKS  
ON SOVERIGN AND INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES MOTIVATED BY  
WHO KNOWS WHAT WICKED INTERESTS."

BOSTER

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009